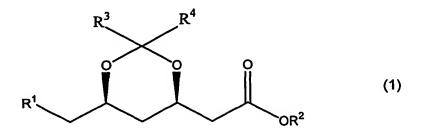
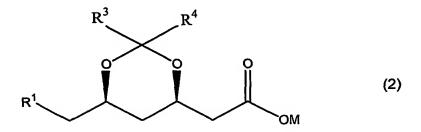
1

## **CLAIMS**

1. Process for the preparation of an ester of formula (1),



wherein R<sup>1</sup> represents a leaving group, CN, OH or a COOR<sup>5</sup> group, R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> each independently represent a 1-3 C alkyl group, and R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> each independently represent an ester residue, wherein the corresponding salt with formula (2),



15

5

10

wherein M represents H or an alkali (earth) metal in an inert solvent is contacted with an acid chloride forming agent to form the corresponding acid chloride, and the acid chloride is contacted with an alcohol with formula R<sup>2</sup>OH in the presence of N-methyl-morpholine.

- 20 2. Process according to claim 1, wherein M represents an alkali metal.
  - 3. Process according to claim 1 or 2, wherein R<sup>2</sup> represents an alkyl group.
  - 4. Process according to claim 3, wherein R<sup>2</sup> represents a t.-butyl group.
  - 5. Process according to any one of claims 1-4, wherein the acid chloride forming agent is oxalylchloride.
- 25 6. Process according to any one of claims 1-5, wherein the acid chloride formation is performed in the presence of a catalyst.
  - 7. Process according to any one of claims 1-6, wherein the amount of alcohol

WO 03/106447 PCT/NL03/00435 - 7 -

with formula R<sup>2</sup>OH is between 3 and 6 equivalents calculated with respect to the amount of salt with formula (2).

8. Process according to any one of claims 1-7, wherein first the salt with formula (2) is converted into the corresponding acid chloride and subsequently the acid chloride is contacted with the alcohol with formula R<sup>2</sup>OH and N-methyl-morpholine.

5

10

15

- 9. Process according to claim 8, wherein the acid chloride is quenched with the alcohol with formula R<sup>2</sup>OH and N-methyl-morpholine.
- 10. Process according to any one of claims 1-9, wherein R¹ represents a leaving group, and wherein the ester of formula 1 wherein R¹ represents a leaving group is subsequently converted into the corresponding ester with formula 1 wherein R1 represents an acyloxy group.
- 11. Process according to claim 10, wherein first an ester of formula 1 wherein R<sup>1</sup> represents an acyloxy group is prepared and subsequently the ester of formula 1 is converted into the corresponding compound with formula 1 wherein R<sup>1</sup> represents OH.